



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45080, Olympia, Washington 98504-5080

May 30, 2002

TO: Regional Administrators
CSO Administrators
All Financial Staff

FROM: Steven Wish, Director
Division of Client Support
Medical Assistance Administration

Michael Masten, Director
Community Services Division
Economic Services Administration

SUBJECT: TRANSITION OF ALIEN MEDICAL (F08 KIDS AND SFA) CASES TO BASIC HEALTH

Beginning October 1, 2002, Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will no longer provide medical coverage to undocumented children and non-citizens who are not eligible for Medicaid. The 2002 State Legislature eliminated state funded medical programs that provided coverage to undocumented children and non-citizens receiving State Family Assistance (SFA) medical and a small number of non-citizen children who are in their five-year ban. To offer medical coverage to those who will lose coverage, the Legislature dedicated membership slots in Basic Health (BH).

There are approximately 28,000 clients, including 23,000 children, who will be affected by this change. Families currently on SFA will continue to receive cash benefits but will no longer be eligible for medical coverage under MAA. Medical coverage for pregnant women and Alien Emergency Medical will not be affected, regardless of the person's Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) status.

Affected groups are:

- (1) Undocumented children, F08 children who have CHILDREN'S HEALTH on the Medical ID card. In Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES), they are on medical program F08.
- (2) Some legal immigrant families and children who have documents, but have been in the U.S. for less than five years. The families receiving SFA are on F01, F02, F03 or F04 in ACES. Some of the children are on F06.
- (3) A person with any other designation and who is not a Qualified Alien and is not eligible for Medicaid.
- (4) See the MAA/BH Transition Web site – <https://www2.wa.gov/dshs/maa/bhptransition/> – for more detailed information about who is and is not covered.

Those affected by this change have received services through fee-for-service at no cost to them. These clients will be able to apply for coverage under the BH program. BH is a managed care program and requires cost sharing in the form of premiums and co-pays. There are also some limitations in the coverage. The legislature created “dedicated membership slots” for this group. Applications must be received before October 31, 2002, to be considered for one of the dedicated slots.

MAA and BH will begin notifying those affected in early June. MAA will send out a notice that the state funded medical program will no longer be available, effective October 1, 2002. A copy of the client notification letter is attached. BH is sending clients a special application in June and follow-up letters throughout the summer. MAA and BH are collaborating with community stakeholders who are helping clients apply.

Some clients may contact Community Services Offices (CSOs) asking what this means and what they need to do. CSO staff should explain that the Department of Social and Health Services will no longer provide medical coverage and the client will be getting information in the mail about applying for BH. The client will also receive a list of community groups who will help them apply if they need help.

To help with the transition, we are asking that when financial staff are contacted by a client or are reviewing one of these cases, please ensure that the ALAS screen for each client is completed correctly and that all the information is accurate. Of particular importance are the current INS status and arrival date.

Qualified aliens who have been in the U.S. longer than five years may be eligible for Medicaid coverage. Medicaid provides broader benefits than BH and does not currently charge premiums or co-payments. We have identified 1,779 clients who will pass the five-year limit before October 31, 2002. Currently ACES does not automatically switch clients from state funded medical to Medicaid. After the September promote, ACES will automatically transfer these clients to Medicaid. They will not be included in the transition to BH.

The process for the transition is not finalized and we will provide updates on any changes.

If you or your clients have questions about the transition, we recommend you check the web site at <https://www2.wa.gov/dshs/maa/bhptransition/>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAA regional representative:

Region	Representative	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Region 1	Judy Maginnis	360-725-1320	maginja@dshs.wa.gov
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Region 4	Joanie Scotson	360-725-1330	scotsjk@dshs.wa.gov
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